

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The American Guild of Organists (AGO), the national professional association serving the organ and choral music field, has officially declared July 2008 through June 2009 as the International Year of the Organ (IYO); and,

Whereas, This association, chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the state of New York in 1896, has designated this year a time for exhibiting our pride in the King of Instruments, and celebrating its colorful history and unparalleled contributions to the universal language of music; and,

Whereas, The 21,000 members of the American Guild of Organists located throughout the United States, Europe, Singapore, Korea, and Sydney, are holding a multitude of activities worldwide to celebrate the IYO, including organ recitals, organ-building workshops, and community events of all kinds; and,

Whereas, October 19, 2008, will be an international day of celebration and focal point of the 2008-2009 International Year of the Organ, during which more than 250 celebrations will be held globally to showcase the organ and its history; and,

Whereas, Hundreds of Guild chapters, as well as music organizations throughout the world, will be sponsoring their own local activities to help generate increased awareness of the organ; and,

Whereas, The association will be working with colleges, universities, and conservatories to promote organ education and appreciation, as well as offering "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" and other special programs to younger students to encourage them to become more involved with the organ and organ music; and,

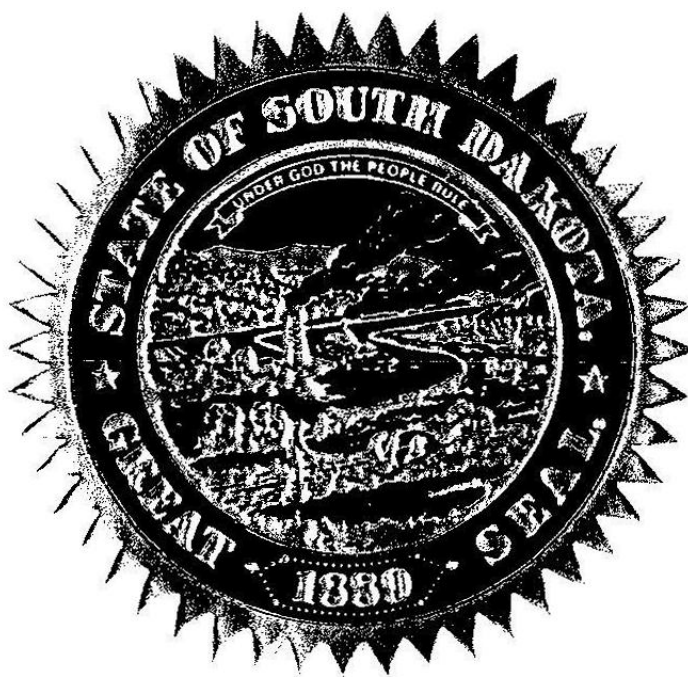
Whereas, The International Year of the Organ will be the largest musical celebration of its kind ever to be held on a global basis; and,

Whereas, Federal, state, and local government officials throughout the United States, as well as civic and social organizations, educators, musicians, music enthusiasts, and others will join together to honor the organ:

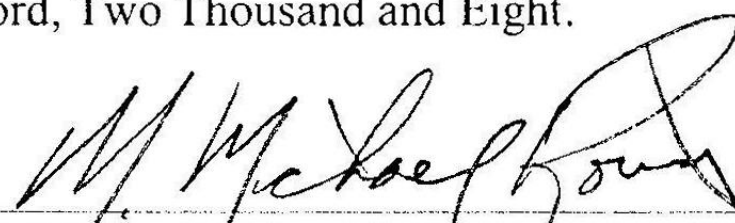
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 2008 through June 2009 as

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State